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GORE SHRIEK

Volume 2 #3

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The Die-Hard Fan

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Front Cover Allen Koszowski

Art this page Gurchain Singh

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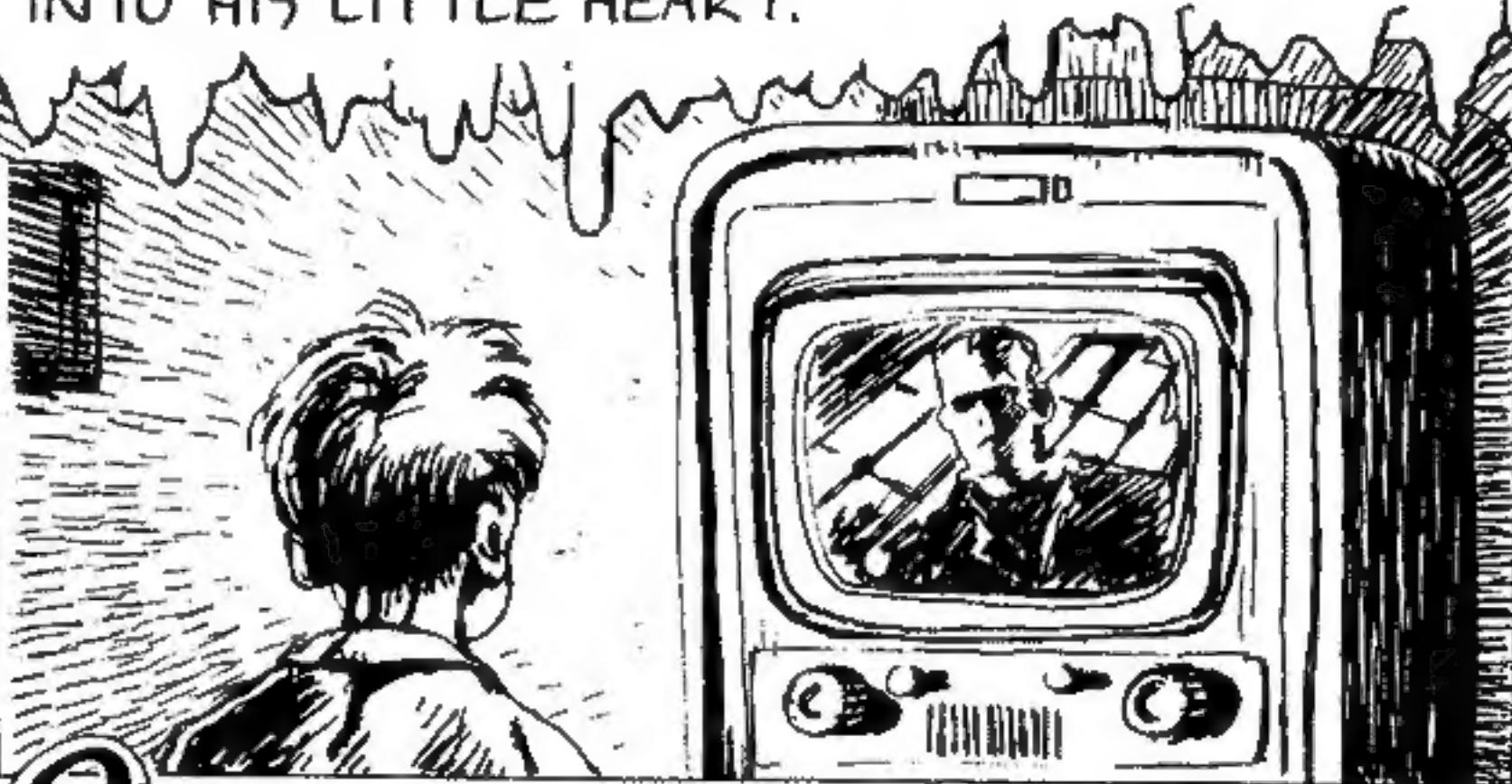


THE DIE-HARD FAN

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YOO-HOO! HI, AGAIN! LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO A BIG HORROR FAN. HIS NAME IS ALEX IT. YOU KNOW THE SORT OF PERSON I'M ON ABOUT HERE...A TRUE HARD-CORE LOVER OF THE MACABRE. BACK IN HIS YOUNGER DAYS HE WOULD SIT UP LATE MESMERIZED BY THE MONSTERS ON TV AS THEY WOULD CREEP AND STOMP THEIR WAY FROM THEIR BLACK AND WHITE WORLD RIGHT INTO HIS LITTLE HEART.

HE FOUND JOY IN READING HORROR STORIES AND BUYING LOTS OF MORBID COMIC BOOKS. OFTEN HIS IMAGINATION WOULD GET THE BETTER OF HIM WHILE HE WAS LYING ALONE ON DARK AND STORMY NIGHTS.



BUT NOW, LOOK HOW HE'S GROWN...AND WHAT A COLLECTION!



JUST TAKE A QUICK PEEK
AT WHAT IT IS THAT'S
TURNED HIM ON.



WOW!

This is my
big chance!

WELL, IT SOUNDS SIMPLE ENOUGH. ALL HE'S GOT TO DO IS SEND IN A DECENT ZOMBIE, WIN THE FIRST PRIZE, AND MEET HIS IDOL, BICK RAKER. THEN IT SHOULD BE EASY TO GRAB HIMSELF SOME REAL WORK IN THE MOVIES AND SOON HE'LL BE ABLE TO WALLOW IN FAME AND FORTUNE FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE.

NOW FOR THE DIFFICULT PART. HIS
SUBMISSION... IT'S GOT TO BE THE BEST!



HE SPENT THE NEXT FEW HOURS SCRIBBLING
IN VAIN. HE NEEDED INSPIRATION.



HE PORED OVER HIS BOOKS, BUT
FOUND HIMSELF SPOILT FOR CHOICE.



THAT NIGHT HE LAID AWAKE IN DEEP
FRUSTRATION. WHAT WOULD HELP HIM
TRIUMPH?



THEN, THE NEXT
MORNING, EUREKA!
IT SUDDENLY HIT
HIM!



YARHA HA!
I have it!



THAT VERY NIGHT ALEX PUTS HIS
NEWLY FORMULATED PLAN INTO
ACTION...DOWN AT THE LOCAL BONE-
YARD!



I SEE IT NOW! SO DESPERATE
IS HE TO WIN THAT HE'S NOW
TAKEN TO DECEIT! HIS IDEA IS
BOTH CLEVER AND SIMPLE--
HE'S GONNA USE A REAL
CORPSE AS HIS ENTRY. BUT
FIRST...



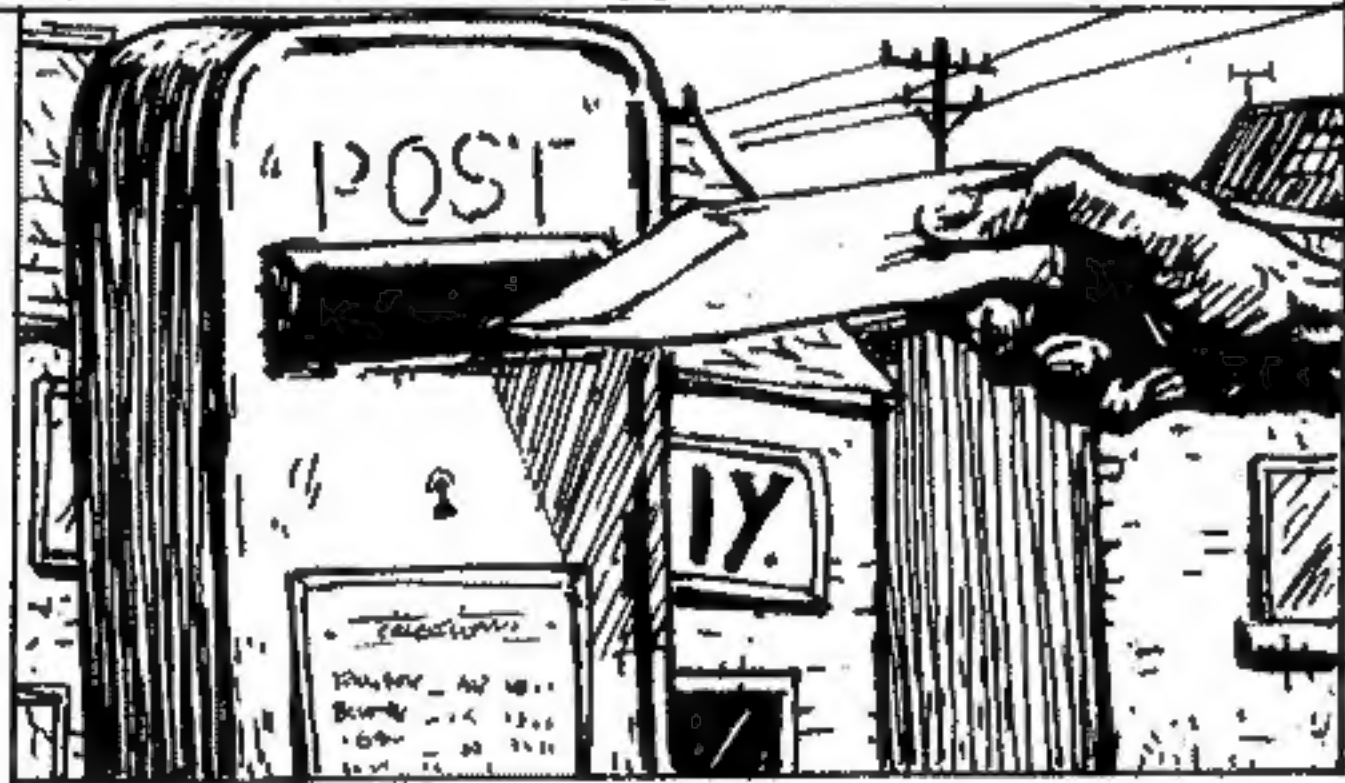
WITH WIRE AND SOME STRING,
FAKE BLOOD AND A PROP, HE
SOON HAS A COUPLE OF
GREAT SET-UPS.



AND SOON AFTER HE HAD
HIMSELF SOME GRADE 'A'
PHOTOS TO SHOW FOR IT.



IT WAS WITH CONFIDENT STRIDES THAT ALEX TOOK HIS ENTRY TO THE POSTING BOX THE FOLLOWING DAY.



AND RIGHTLY SO! EARLY NEXT MONTH, WHEN THE WINNER WAS TO BE ANNOUNCED, A LETTER ARRIVED.

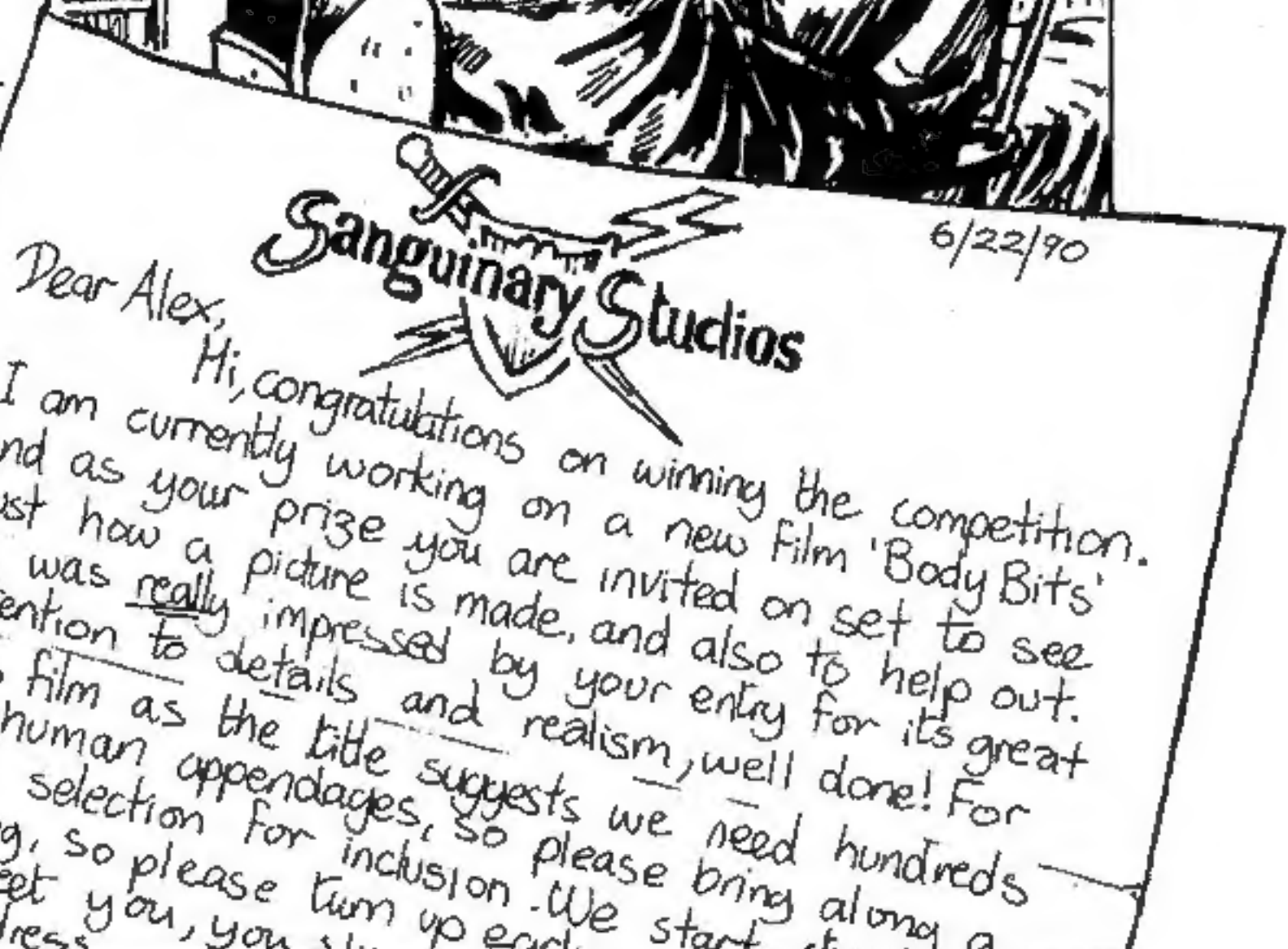


OH, THE ECSTASY OF WINNING! FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS ALEX WAS ONE HAPPY GUY. IT HAD ALL BEEN SO EASY.

Alex,
you are one
mean genius!
Ha ha ha!



A WEEK LATER HE RECEIVED ANOTHER LETTER, FROM THE GREAT MAN HIMSELF, OUTLINING HIS PRIZE...



YAAAAAHHHHH*

ONE WEEK LATER...



Hi, pleased to meet you. I'm Bick!

-cough-
HI!

Is everything okay? You do look ill. The washroom is straight ahead if you need to freshen up.



We're just about ready to shoot a scene, so I don't have time to chat, but I'll take a quick peek at your work...

-cough-



Tom, Steve, take a look at these!



This kid is good!

Wow! Splendid stuff.

Wicked.

Dead good!

He'll go far.



Feels, looks so real, man.



I think we've found ourselves a new addition to the team, gang.



HEY!

Bick! You guys! C'mere, quick!



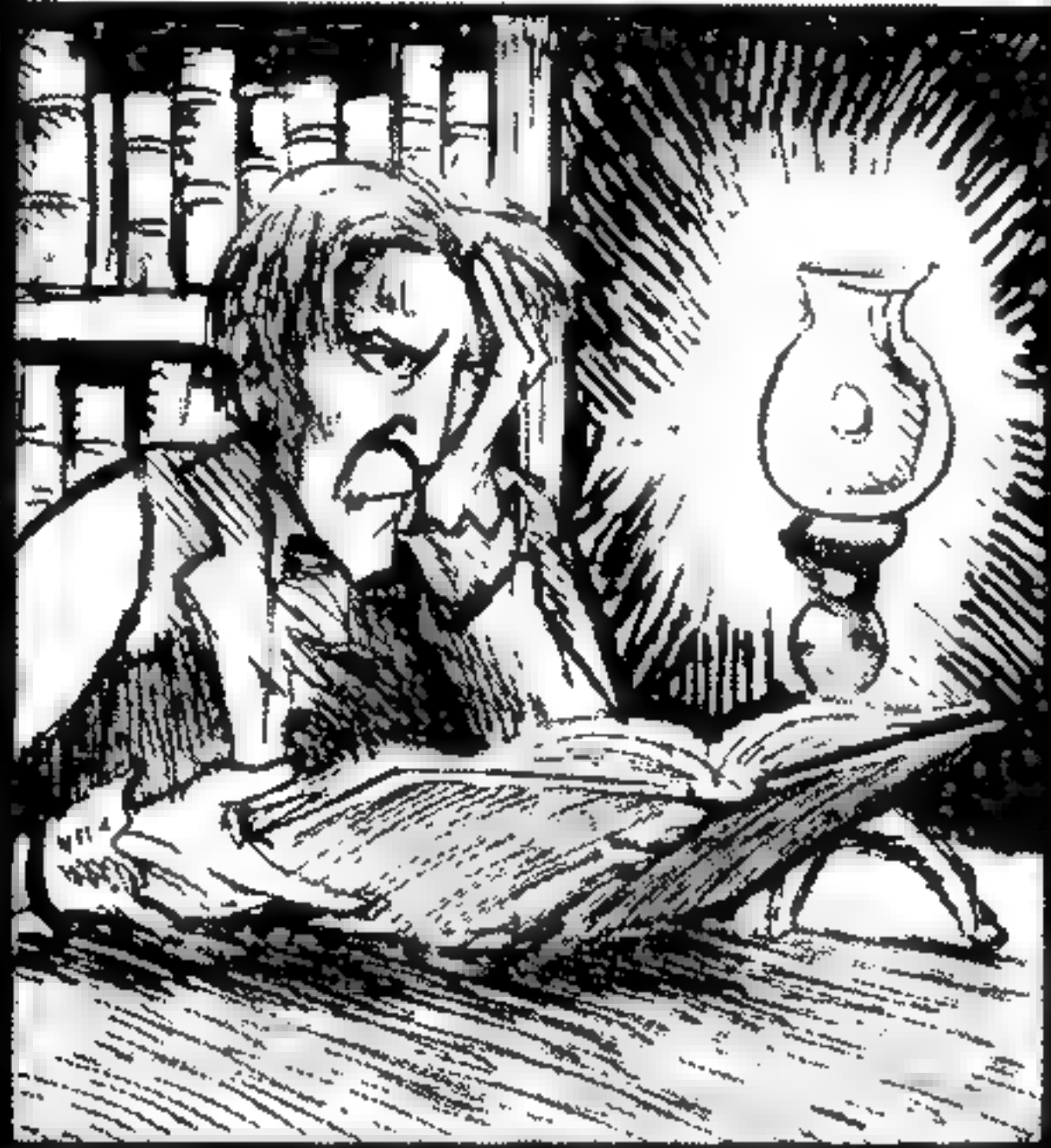
MISERY IS MANIFOLD. THE WRETCHEDNESS OF THE EARTH IS MULTIFORM. ITS HUES ARE AS VARIED AS THOSE OF THE RAINBOW. HOW IS IT, THEN, THAT FROM BEAUTY I HAVE DERIVED A TYPE OF UNLOVELINESS—FROM THE COVENANT OF PEACE A SIMILE OF SORROW?

MY BAPTISMAL NAME IS AGAEUS; THAT OF MY FAMILY I WILL NOT MENTION. YET, THERE ARE NO TOWERS IN THE LAND MORE TIME-HONORED THAN MY GRAY, GLOOMY, HEREDITARY HALLS.



Edgar Allan Poe's
BERENICE
Adapted by Eric Stanway

MY EARLIEST RECOLLECTIONS ARE CONNECTED WITH THE LIBRARY. HERE DIED MY MOTHER—HEREIN I WAS BORN. HERE I LOITERED AWAY MY BOYHOOD IN BOOKS AND DISSIPATED MY YOUTH IN REVERIE, AND THE NOON OF MANHOOD FOUND ME STILL IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE.



BERENICE AND I WERE COUSINS AND WE GREW UP TOGETHER IN MY PATERNAL HALLS. YET DIFFERENTLY WE GREW— I ILL OF HEALTH, AND BURIED IN GLOOM, SHE AGILE, GRACEFUL, OVERFLOWING WITH ENERGY.



HERS THE RAMBLE ON THE HILLSIDE— MINE THE STUDIES IN THE CLOISTER— I LIVING WITHIN MY OWN HEART— SHE ROAMING CARELESSLY THROUGH LIFE, WITH NO THOUGHT OF THE SHADOWS IN HER PATH, OR THE SILENT FLIGHT OF RAVEN-WINGED HOURS.

THEN, A DISEASE—A FATAL DISEASE—FELL UPON HER FRAME LIKE A SIMOON, AND EVEN AS I GAZED UPON HER, THE SPIRIT OF CHANGE SWEEPED OVER HER, PERVADING HER MIND, HER HABITS, AND HER CHARACTER. AT LAST, I KNEW HER NOT—OR KNEW HER NO LONGER AS BERENICE.



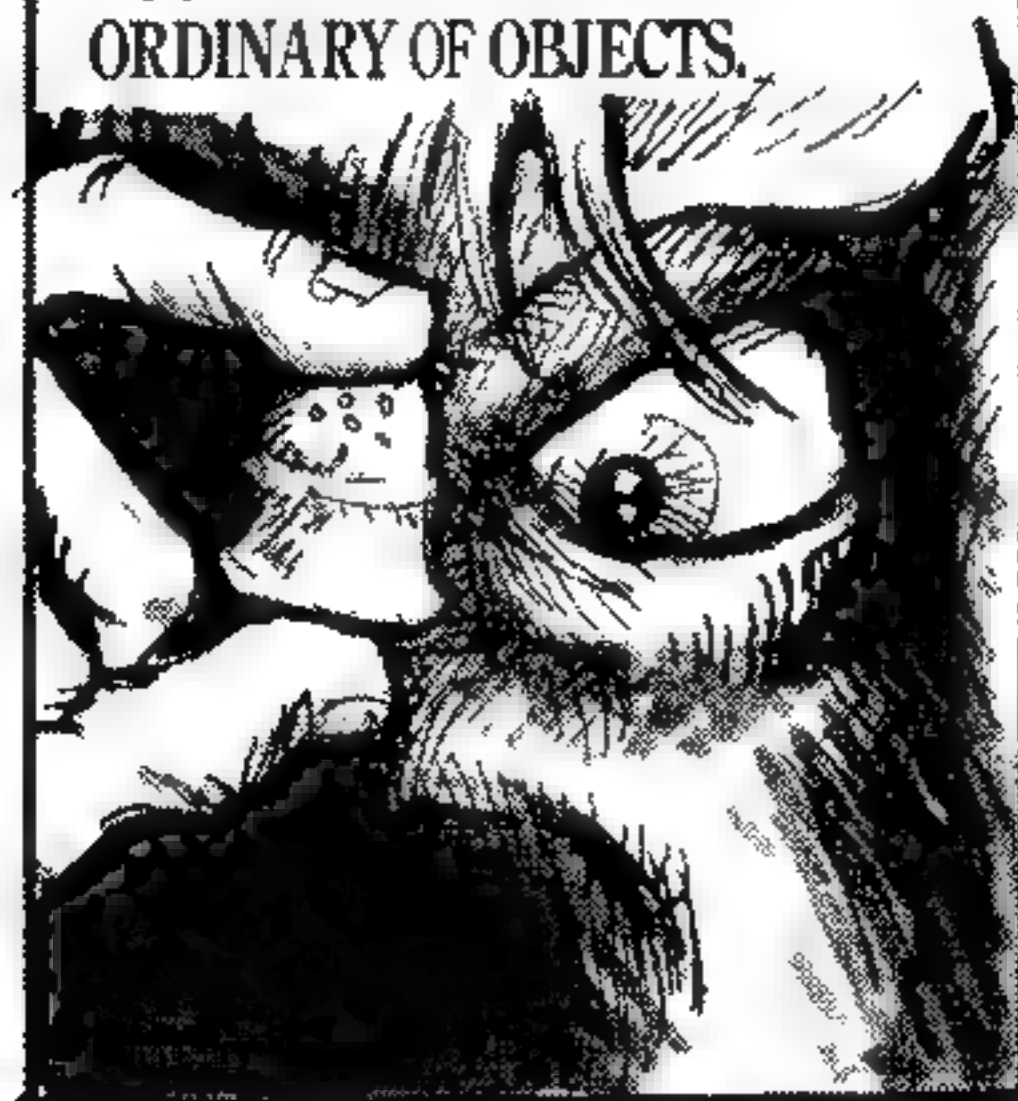
AMONG THE MALADIES SUPERINDUCED BY THIS DISEASE WAS A SPECIES OF EPILEPSY, NOT INFREQUENTLY TERMINATING IN A TRANCE RESEMBLING POSITIVE DISSOLUTION.



IN THE MEANTIME, MY OWN DISEASE GREW RAPIDLY UPON ME, AND ASSUMED A FORM OF MONOMANIA—

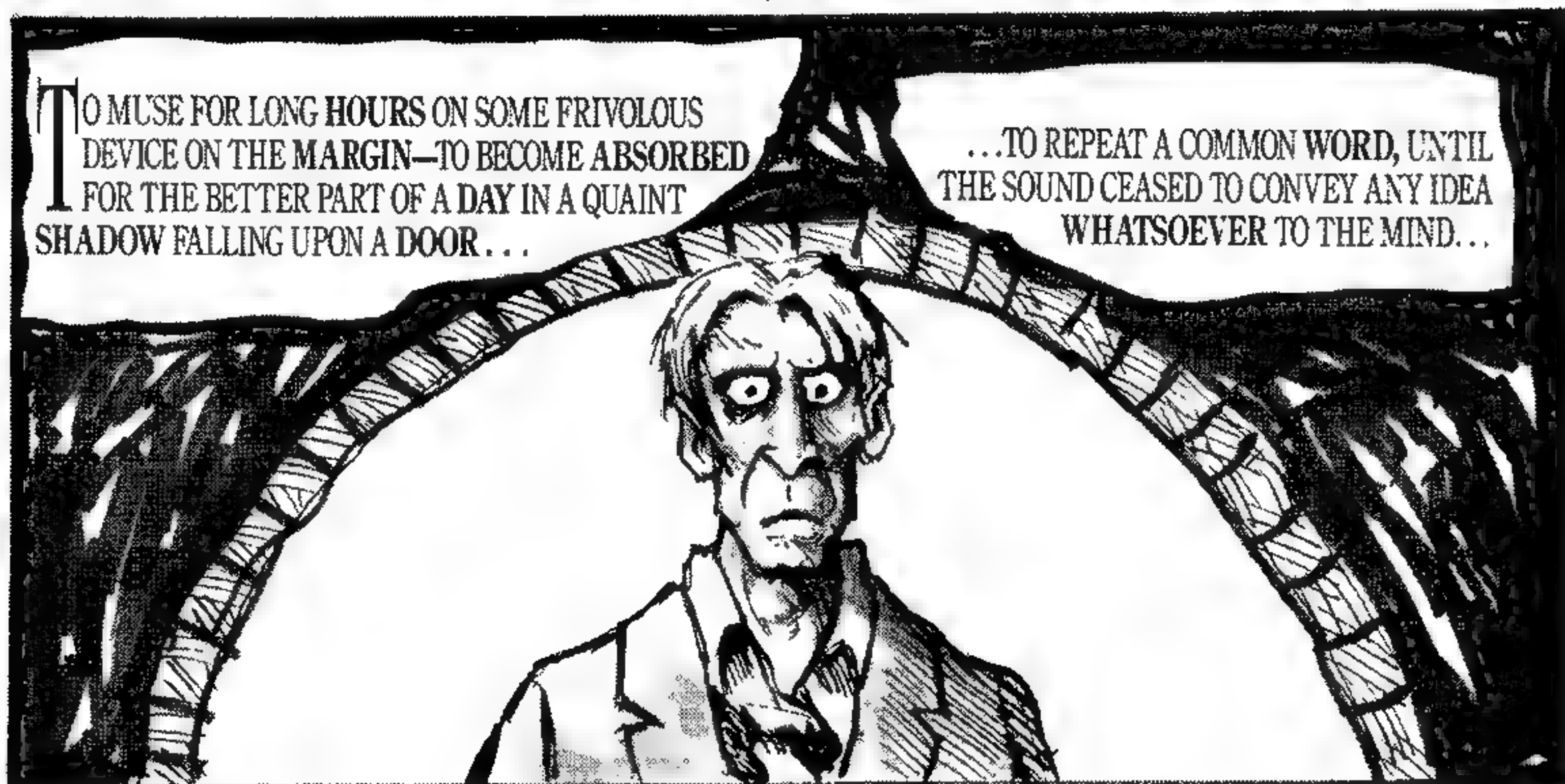


WHEREBY I BUSIED MYSELF IN THE CONTEMPLATION OF EVEN THE MOST ORDINARY OF OBJECTS.



TO MUSE FOR LONG HOURS ON SOME FRIVOLOUS DEVICE ON THE MARGIN—TO BECOME ABSORBED FOR THE BETTER PART OF A DAY IN A QUAIN'T SHADOW FALLING UPON A DOOR...

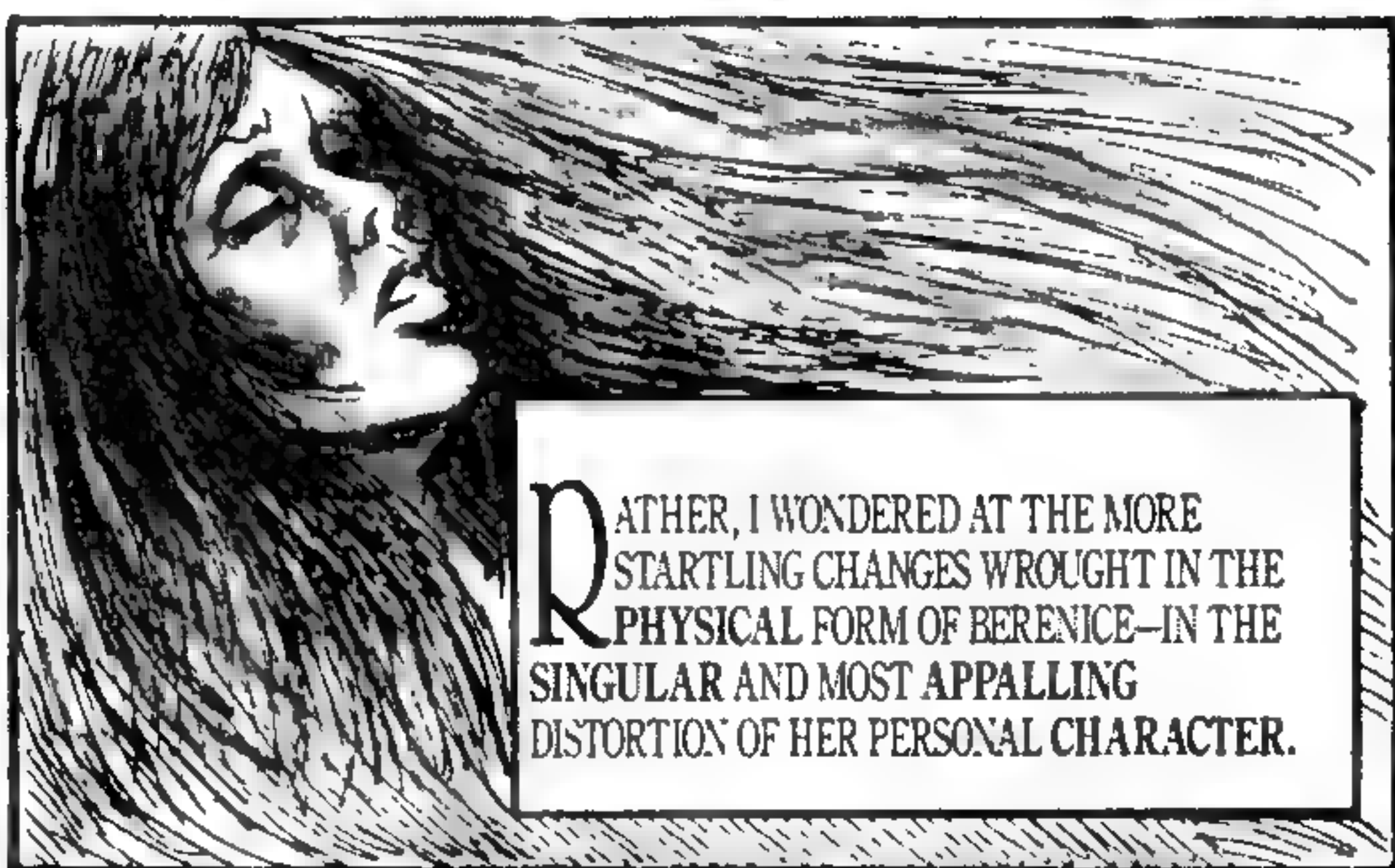
...TO REPEAT A COMMON WORD, UNTIL THE SOUND CEASED TO CONVEY ANY IDEA WHATSOEVER TO THE MIND...



IT WOULD APPEAR, TO THE CARELESS THINKER, THAT THE MORAL CONDITION OF BERENICE WOULD AFFORD ME A SUBJECT FOR MY ABNORMAL MEDITATIONS.



YET, SUCH WAS NOT THE CASE. HER CALAMITY GAVE ME PAIN, IN MY LUCID INTERVALS, BUT THE DISEASE DWELT NOT ON THIS—



RATHER, I WONDERED AT THE MORE STARTLING CHANGES WROUGHT IN THE PHYSICAL FORM OF BERENICE—IN THE SINGULAR AND MOST APPALLING DISTORTION OF HER PERSONAL CHARACTER.

AND I SAW HER AS THE BERENICE OF A DREAM—NOT AS AN OBJECT OF LOVE, BUT SOMETHING TO BE ANALYZED.



AND NOW, YET LAMENTING HER FALLEN CONDITION, I RECALLED THAT SHE HAD LOVED ME LONG, AND IN AN EVIL MOMENT, I SPOKE TO HER OF MARRIAGE.

AND, AT LENGTH, THE PERIOD OF OUR NUPTIALS WAS APPROACHING, WHEN, UPON A WARM WINTER'S AFTERNOON, I SAT ALONE IN THE LIBRARY. BUT, UPLIFTING MY EYES, I SAW BERENICE BEFORE ME.



WAS IT MY OWN EXCITED IMAGINATION—OR THE UNCERTAIN TWILIGHT OF THE CHAMBER—THAT GAVE HER BODY SO VACILLATING AND INDISTINCT AN OUTLINE? I COULD NOT TELL. SHE SPOKE NOT A WORD, AND I COULD NOT UTTER A SYLLABLE.



A NICY CHILL RAN THROUGH MY FRAME; A SENSE OF INSUFFERABLE AGITATION OPPRESSED ME; A CONSUMING CURIOSITY PERVADED MY SOUL; AND, SINKING BACK UPON THE CHAIR, I REMAINED FOR SOME TIME BREATHLESS AND MOTIONLESS, MY EYES RIVETED UPON HER PERSON.



THE FOREHEAD WAS HIGH,
AND SINGULARLY PLACID;
AND THE ONCE JETTY HAIR
FELL OVER IT AND OVER-
SHADOWED THE HOLLOW
TEMPLES WITH INNUMERABLE
RINGLETS NOW OF A VIVID
YELLOW—

—AND JARRING DISCORDANTLY, IN
THEIR FANTASTIC CHARACTER,
WITH THE REIGNING MELANCHOLY
OF THE COUNTENANCE.

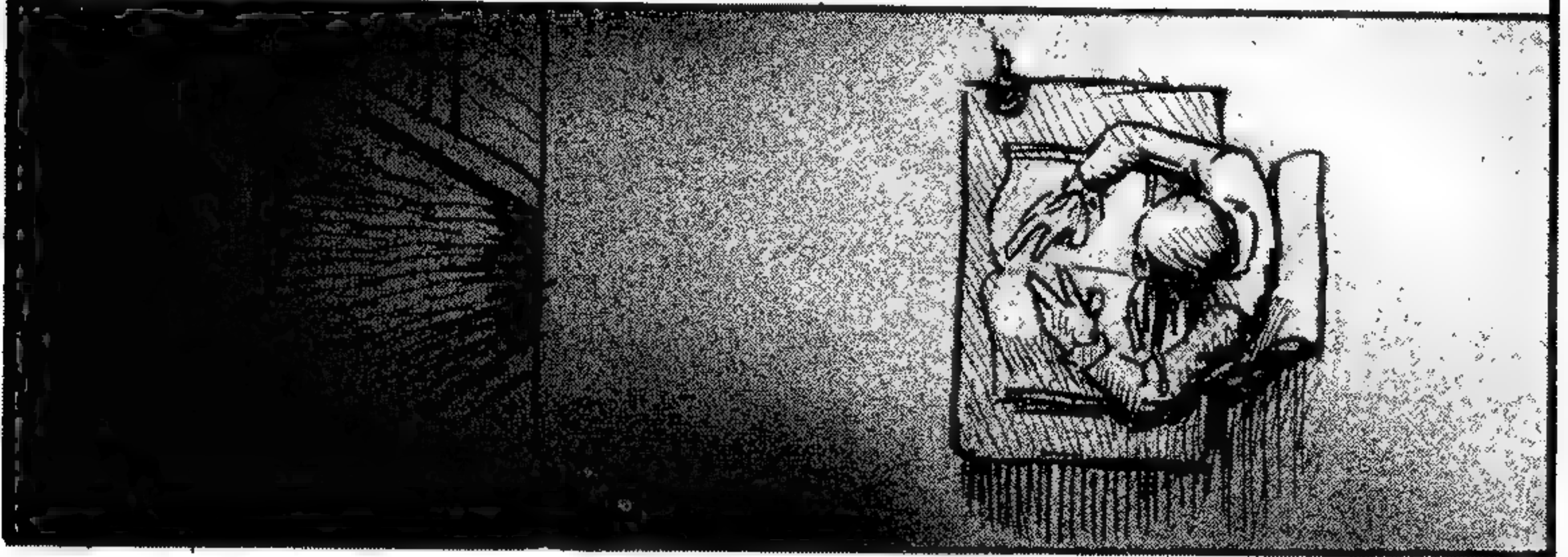
THE EYES WERE LIFELESS AND
LUSTERLESS AND SEEMINGLY
PUPIL-LESS, AND I SHRANK
INVOLUNTARILY FROM THEIR
GLASSY STARE—

TO THE CONTEMPLATION OF
THE THIN AND SHRUNKEN
LIPS. THEY PARTED—AND, IN A
SMILE OF PECULIAR MEANING—

THE TEETH OF THE CHANGED
BERENICE DISCLOSED THEM-
SELVES SLOWLY TO MY VIEW.

WOULD TO GOD THAT I HAD
NEVER SEEN THEM, OR THAT,
HAVING DONE SO, I HAD DIED!

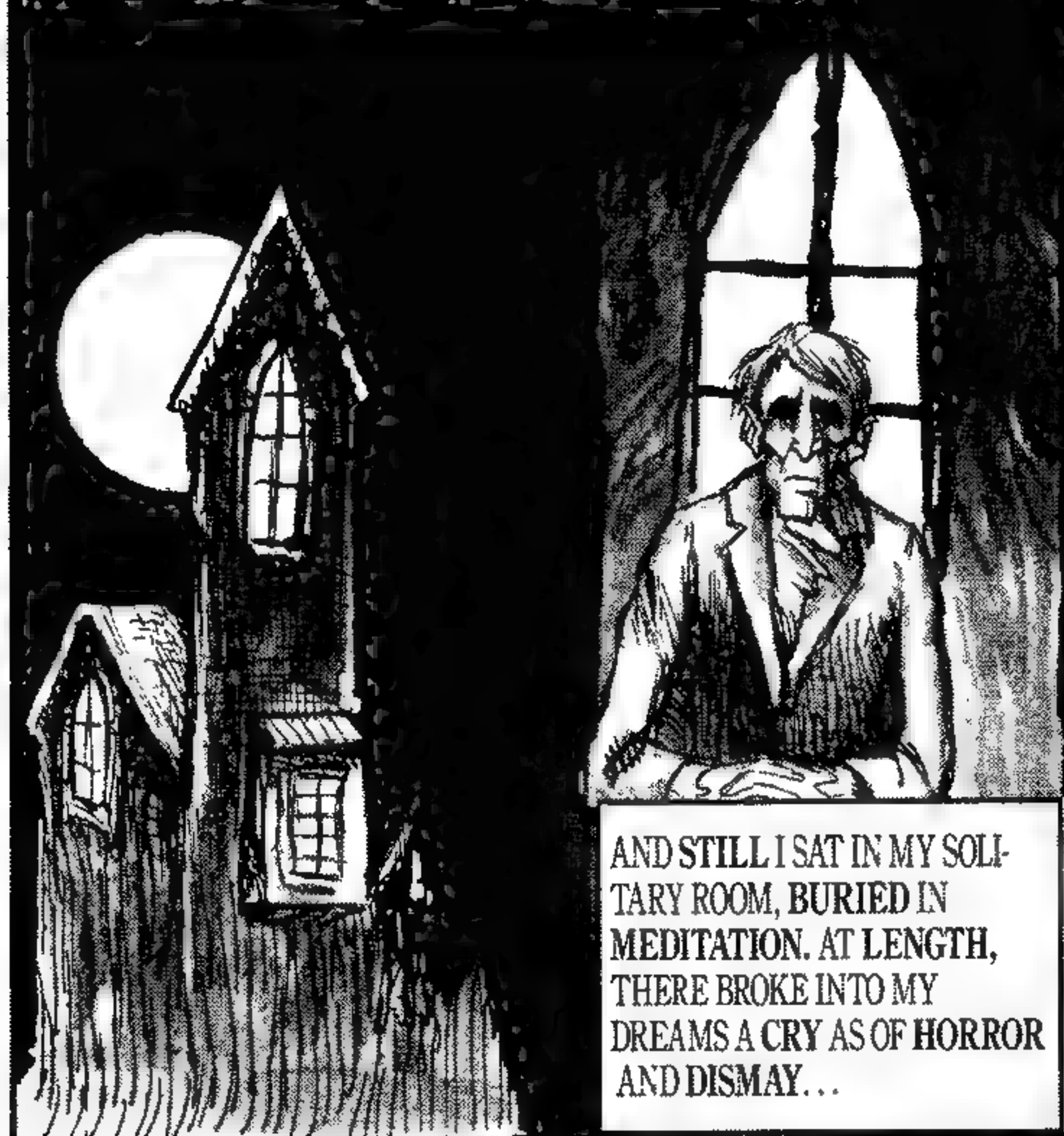
THE SHUTTING OF THE DOOR DISTURBED ME, AND, LOOKING UP, I FOUND THAT MY COUSIN HAD DEPARTED THE CHAMBER. BUT FROM THE DISORDERED CHAMBER OF MY BRAIN HAD NOT DEPARTED, AND WOULD NOT BE DRIVEN AWAY, THE WHITE AND GHASTLY SPECTRUM OF THE TEETH.



NOT A SPECK ON THEIR SURFACE—NOT A SHADE ON THEIR ENAMEL—NOT AN INDENTURE IN THEIR EDGES—THE TEETH! THE TEETH! THEY WERE HERE AND THERE; LONG, NARROW, EXCESSIVELY WHITE, WITH THE PALE LIPS WRITHING ABOUT THEM. IN THE MULTIPLIED OBJECTS OF THE EXTERNAL WORLD, I HELD NO INTEREST. I THOUGHT ONLY OF THE TEETH, AND FOR THESE I LONGED WITH A PHRENZIED DESIRE.



AND THE EVENING CLOSED UPON ME **THUS—** AND THEN THE **DARKNESS** CAME, AND TARRIED, AND WENT— AND AGAIN THE DAY DAWNED— AND THE MISTS OF THE SECOND NIGHT WERE NOW GATHERING AROUND...



AND STILL I SAT IN MY SOLITARY ROOM, BURIED IN MEDITATION. AT LENGTH, THERE BROKE INTO MY DREAMS A CRY AS OF HORROR AND DISMAY...

I AROSE FROM MY SEAT, AND, THROWING OPEN THE DOOR OF THE LIBRARY, SAW STANDING THERE A SERVANT MAIDEN, ALL IN TEARS, WHO TOLD ME THAT BERENICE WAS—NO MORE.



HE HAD BEEN SEIZED WITH **EPILEPSY** IN THE EARLY MORNING, AND NOW, AT THE CLOSE OF THE NIGHT, THE GRAVE WAS READY FOR ITS TENANT, AND ALL THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE BURIAL HAD BEEN COMPLETED.



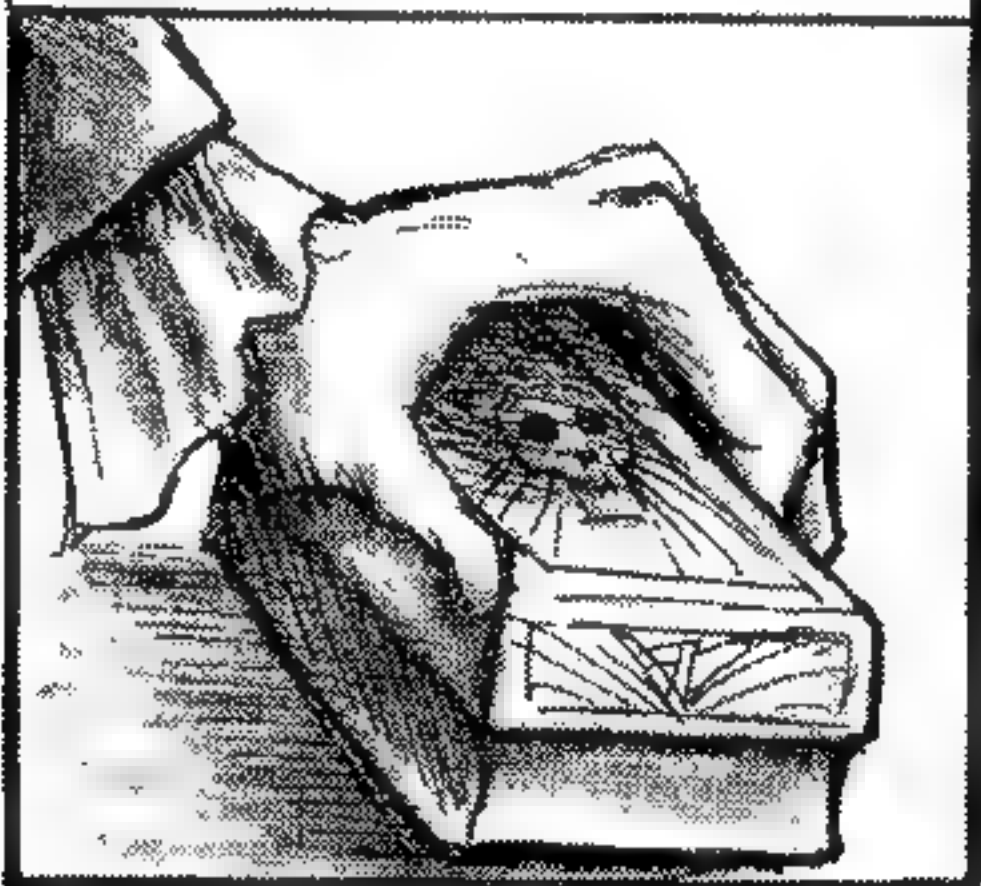
I FOUND MYSELF SITTING IN THE LIBRARY, AND AGAIN SITTING THERE ALONE. IT SEEMED AS THOUGH I HAD NEWLY AWAKENED FROM A CONFUSED AND EXCITING DREAM. I KNEW THAT IT WAS NOW MIDNIGHT, AND BERENICE HAD BEEN INTERRED AT SUNDOWN. BUT OF THE INTERVENING PERIOD, I HAD NO DEFINITE COMPREHENSION.



BUT I KNEW I HAD DONE A DEED. I ASKED MYSELF THE QUESTION ALOUD, AND THE WHISPERING ECHOES OF THE CHAMBER ANSWERED ME—"WHAT WAS IT?"



ON THE TABLE NEAR ME LAY A LITTLE BOX. IT WAS OF NO REMARKABLE CHARACTER, AND I HAD SEEN IT BEFORE. WHY, THEN, DID IT NOW FILL ME WITH DREAD?



THERE CAME A TAP UPON THE DOOR—AND A MENIAL ENTERED UPON TIPTOE. HIS LOOKS WERE WILD WITH TERROR, AND HE SPOKE WITH A VOICE TREMULOUS.



HE TOLD OF A WILD CRY IN THE NIGHT—OF A GATHERING TOGETHER OF THE HOUSEHOLD—OF A SEARCH IN DIRECTION OF THE SOUND.



AND HE WHISPERED TO ME OF A VIOLATED GRAVE—OF A DISFIGURED BODY, ENSHROUDED, YET STILL BREATHING, STILL PALPITATING, STILL ALIVE!



HE POINTED TO MY GARMENTS—
THEY WERE MUDDY AND CLOTTED
WITH GORE.



I SPOKE NOT, AND HE TOOK ME
GENTLY BY THE HAND—IT BORE
THE IMPRESS OF HUMAN
NAILS.



HE DIRECTED MY ATTENTION TO
SOME OBJECT THAT LEANT
AGAINST THE WALL.

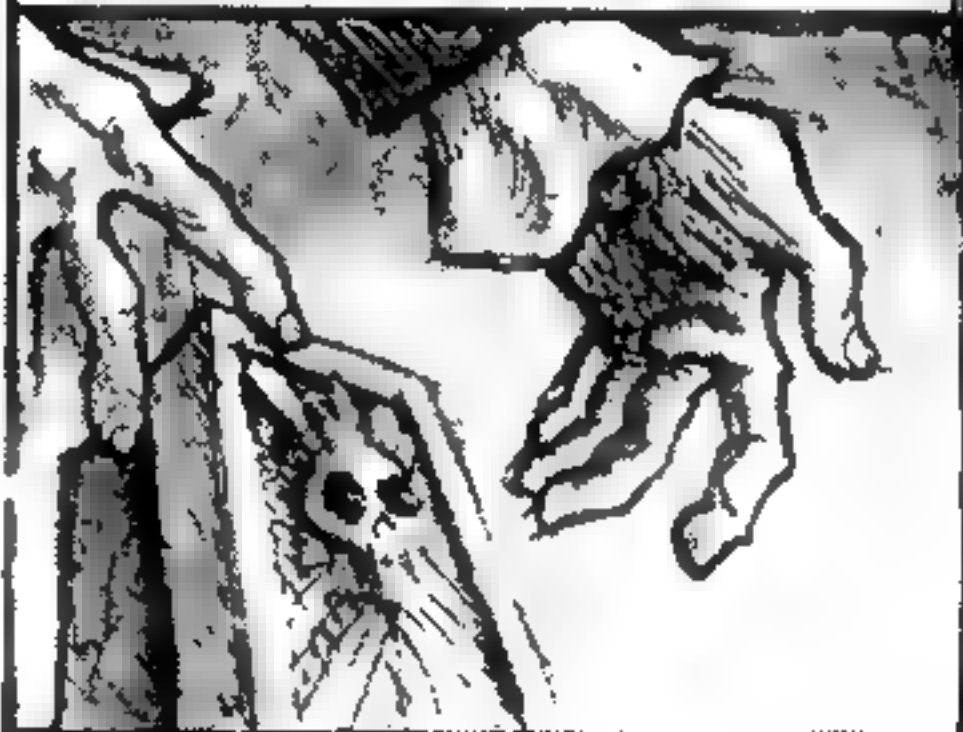


IT WAS A SPADE.

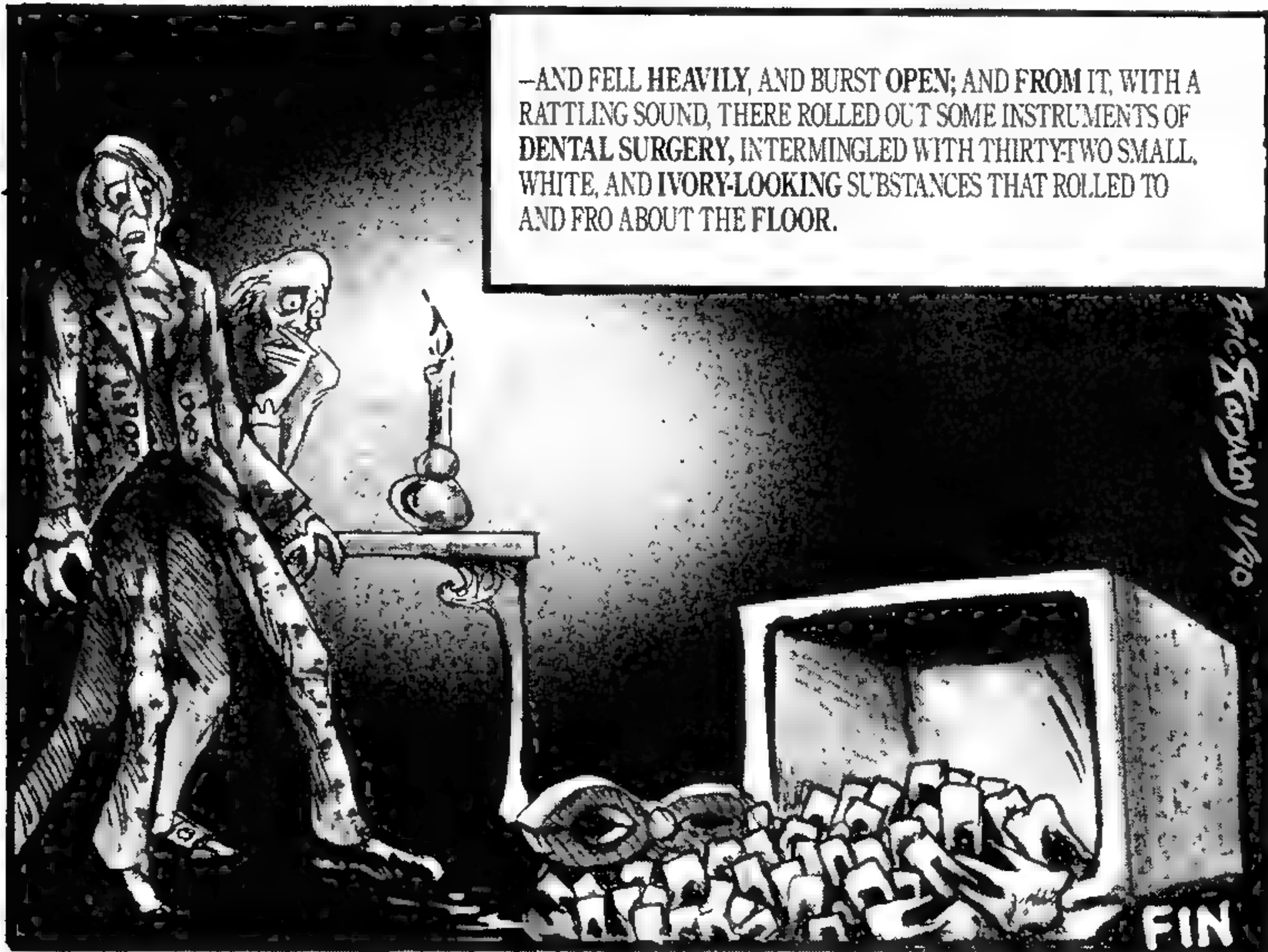
WITH A SHRIEK, I BOUNDED TO THE TABLE, AND GRASPED THE BOX
THAT LAY UPON IT...



BUT I COULD NOT FORCE IT OPEN;
AND IN MY TREMOR IT SLIPPED
FROM MY HANDS—



—AND FELL HEAVILY, AND BURST OPEN; AND FROM IT, WITH A
RATTLING SOUND, THERE ROLLED OUT SOME INSTRUMENTS OF
DENTAL SURGERY, INTERMINGLED WITH THIRTYTWO SMALL,
WHITE, AND IVORY-LOOKING SUBSTANCES THAT ROLLED TO
AND FRO ABOUT THE FLOOR.



Eric Starvo Galt 11/90

FIN

GORE SHRIEK

c/o FantaCo Ent. Inc.
21 Central Ave.
Albany, NY 12210

Since we haven't had a letters column since Volume 1 #6, I'd say it's high time we looked at the mail. Here goes!

Dear Shriek,

I have enjoyed your last five issues and am awaiting your next issues eagerly. I still cannot put into words how the staff of artists at FantaCo are doing, it's literally amazing. I just wanted to tell Bruce Spaulding Fuller that I did a report on his artwork, along with adding a couple of Bruce's masterpieces, and my English teacher gave me an F on my paper and said it was not appropriate for grading! I told him something that wasn't appropriate for grading after that.

Not to be picky or anything but Gore Shriek issues now seem to have less comic work than issues one and two. I hope to see more comics and art in the future. As a closing note I'd like to say I love the idea of making T-shirts out of the covers of the comics. It's a big hit with my friends, too. They all want one.

Thanks a lot for reading my letter. Live long and shriek!

Gorily yours,
Jason Quintal
Hudson, NH

Dear FantaCo,

Gore Shriek was a tremendous success. It was very gory and gross. That is the way I like it. It was like I was in there. My friends said that it was in 3-D thanks to the artwork by Bruce Spaulding Fuller. I and my friends call it a pure classic gory, gross, tremendous comic book. I would like to know how to get a subscription to Gore Shriek. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely yours,
Chris Jong
Lake Providence, LA

Dear Sirs,

I would just like to say that Gore Shriek is the best blood & guts horror comic I've ever read. I think issue #1 was the best you guys have ever done so far, especially the untitled story by Townsend and Capullo. Another thing that is virtually outstanding is the art. I find every artist's work very appealing, especially Mr. Bisette's. Another thing that I enjoyed very much was the article "Intruder at the Gates of the Mind" by Tom Veitch, but I think he forgot to mention two good artists: William Stout and Berni Wrightson. Other than that his

article was simply fantastic. Finally, I'd just like to thank you for creating Gore Shriek.

Sincerely,
Daniel Castillo
Laredo, TX

P.S. Enclosed is a little drawing to show my appreciation of Gore Shriek.

Gory Shrieks,

How about putting the cover to Gore Shriek #4 on a white T-shirt? That would be excellent!!!! Also, posters of covers #3 or #5 would not be a bad idea either. One more suggestion: I would use all three of the Gore Shriek logos for future issues and not just stick to the logo found on issues 2, 4, 5 & 6. The logo on #3 is my favorite, sooooooooooooo...HOW ABOUT IT?!

David Platt
Stone Mountain, GA

Dear Shriek (and yes, you too, Gore),

Just thought I'd throw in my two cents about your comic. Well, in 1986 I was a scrawny little 12 year old with a collection of Fangorias totaling about two! In all of them I noticed ads for Gore Shriek from FantaCo Enterprises. It looked so good that I decided to order it and a couple of other things. When I received my stuff, I was absolutely ecstatic about Gore Shriek and the other comic I ordered, Deadworld. Well, now it's 1989 and I have a collection of 40 Fangorias, 10 Deadworlds, 6 Gore Shrieks, 6 Deep Reds, 6 Frights, 7 Fright Nights, 2 Creepys and 2 Eeries, and that is only the beginning of what I will have at the end of this year! Well, what I'm trying to say is that because of Gore Shriek I wouldn't have any of this. It is an excellent comic full of wonderfully drawn and written stories by Bruce Spaulding Fuller, Greg Capullo, Steve Bisette and Rolf Stark (although Rain was a bit fucked up, Rolf). I'm looking forward to getting the Gore Shriek T-shirt and the Gore Shriek Book and to continue getting things from FantaCo. To all of you, I bid a very big Thank You!

Sincerely,
Jason Santo
Stoneham, MA

Dear Tom, or Steve or Anyone!

After Gore Shriek #3 came out, the next one

any store around had was #5, #4 never came here. In issue #5, an ad said #4 was sold out. I love Gore Shriek, and I'm mentally destroyed because I can't get any comic store owner to order it for me. Could you please reprint #4 or maybe find a hidden copy somewhere for me? If you have one, please tell me, I'll pay twice what it's worth!

Thank you all — live long!

Kevin S. Kalkhoven
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Dear Mr. Shriek,

I love your mags. Who says your mags suck should have the death penalty on them. I love Chas Balun art, also Bruce Spaulding Fuller. Ever thought of turning the mag into a movie, or having a special or annual out? Well, thanks for the gore.

Michael Cortez
(Jason's son)
Elmont, NY

Dear Mr. Veitch:

I'd like to sincerely and deeply thank you for the article "Intruders at the Gates of the mind" which appeared in Gore Shriek #5 and #6. I am a horror writer trying desperately to break into comics, and I've been learning all I can about the history of horror in that medium. Up until recently, I've known very little about horror in the undergrounds; I was too young to get into them when they were in print (though I grew up on Creepy, House of Secrets, House of Mystery, and The Unexpected), and finding back issues is pretty close to impossible since I'm currently living in western Canada, which is on its way to becoming one of the censorship capitals of North America (I'm a Pennsylvania boy and

got my master's degree at SUNY-Binghamton; I just can't get used to this "Canadian content law" bullshit).

Luckily, I was able to pick up the last to issues of Gore Shriek and discovered your article. You've been extremely helpful in taking me back to the roots of this medium I love so much and truly need to be a part of — and I think you can understand why I've chosen "need". I've had a few short stories published, but I recently realized that comics are the only vehicle truly suited to the stories I have to tell; to use your words, they need "the immediacy of entering a reader's brain via images, through his helplessly pinned-open eyes..."

Anyway, I don't want to blather on about myself; I just want to say "Thanks!"

..Finally (hope you're still with me), can you suggest a comic or two willing to give a chance to a new writer of horror stories steeped in graphic sex and violence?...a lot of the other comics companies that print horror either stick with established names in the comic field or wouldn't touch the kind of material I write (or both). As I said before, I'm desperate.

Yours truly,
Jack Skrip
Edmonton, Alberta

It seems that everybody's enthusiasm for all things horrific has turned into a real desire to create. We think that's tremendous, and always encourage free expression. Unfortunately, we're up to our eye sockets in gorgeously frightening works. Wait until you see what we've got cooked up for issue #4!

Well, that's all the letters that survived Gore's attack on the postman! Please write and tell us what you think of the issues raised in this letters column, what you thought of the contents of this issue, what brand of chainsaw you prefer, evisceration secrets, etc. For now, this is Shriek saying...stop it, Gore!..this is Shriek say...Gore! Gore, I'm busy! Hey! Hey! Aaaargh!





MELINDA, MY DARLING.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE
MOMENT'S FINALLY
HERE. HAS IT REALLY
BEEN TWO YEARS?
CAN THAT BE RIGHT?
TWO, LONG CRUEL YEARS
SINCE THEY TOOK YOU
FROM ME.

MY DEAR, SWEET MELINDA

PART OF ME DIED THAT DAY
DOC FULLER DIAGNOSED
YOU. HE SAID HED NEVER
SEEN ANYTHING LIKE
IT BEFORE. HE SAID THAT
THEY MIGHT NAME THE
DISEASE AFTER YOU.



WE WERE GOING TO SPEND
OUR LIVES TOGETHER.



WE LAUGHED AT FIRST.
DO YOU REMEMBER,
MELINDA?

IT CHANGED YOU. THEY
SAID IT MADE YOU UGLY,
DERANGED. IT WAS LIKE
PURE HELL WATCHING
YOU.



MELINDA ...
YOU'RE LOOKING
WELL, TODAY ...
I'VE BROUGHT YOU
SOME FLOWERS

...UH.. I GUESS
I'LL JUST LEAVE
THEM BY THE
BED.



IF NOT FOR YOUR SISTER, BELINDA,
I WOULD HAVE BEEN TOTALLY LOST
DO YOU REMEMBER?

BELINDA ... MY DEAR,
SWEET ANGEL.



MY LIFE, MY JOY.

SHE HELPED ME FORGET
THE PAIN... FOR A WHILE.
SOON WE WERE MARRIED.
I KNOW YOU WOULD HAVE
WANTED IT THAT WAY.



OUR BLISS WAS CUT SHORT
... BY BRUTAL CIRCUM-
STANCES... DO YOU RE-
MEMBER? GUESS NOT.

I'M NOT SURE HOW TO
TELL YOU THIS...

IT'S THE SAME...
ISN'T IT? HOW
LONG DOES SHE...

A FEW MONTHS AT THE
MOST... I'M VERY SORRY.



IT'S OBVIOUSLY INHERITED. IT SHOULD TAKE THE SAME COURSE. FIRST A MUTATION OF THE BODY CELLS, THEN THE DISEASE SPREADS TO THE BRAIN CAUSING IRREPERABLE MENTAL DAMAGE...



EXTENDED PERIOD OF MADNESS... DEATH.

COME MY CHILD, I KNOW YOU'VE SUFFERED... I CAN HELP YOU.



THEN CAME DR. STARK...

...HE SAID HE COULD HELP US!

—A GOD-DAMNED MASTERPIECE! MY GREATEST SUCCESS! YOU... ARE MAGNIFICENT!...



HERE... TAKE A LOOK!

HAH! YOU HAVE DONE IT! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.



BELIEVE IT, MR. STANWAY... DO BELIEVE IT.



YOU CAME TO THE RIGHT MAN. I THINK YOU'LL FIND THIS TYPE OF WORK IS MY SPECIALITY, YES?



ALL OF THOSE PAIN-WRACKED DAYS ARE NOW BEHIND YOU, MY GOOD MAN.



YOU ARE NOW FREE TO LIVE A LONG, NORMAL AND HAPPY LIFE...



—YOU AND THE GIRLS, THAT IS...

≡Sob, Sob≡ OH, DOCTOR
...Oh... Y-YOU'VE MADE ME
—M-MADE THE THREE
OF US, SOOOO VERY
HAPPY—

HOW CAN WE
EVER REPAY YOU?

Oh, BUT YOU
ALREADY HAVE,
STANWAY,


... YOU ALREADY
HAVE.

≡sniff, sniffle≡ I JUST LOVE HAPPY
ENDINGS, DON'T YOU? ≡heh heh≡
WELL, THAT'S ALL FOR NOW, KIDDIES!
SEE YOU NEXT TIME... **R.I.P**

R.I.P

4

GODFATHER GDEATH

A black and white illustration of a man with a long beard and a simple tunic walking along a path that leads towards a village in the distance. The path is flanked by trees and a fence. The man is looking down with a somber expression. In the background, a village with a church steeple and a windmill is visible on a hill.

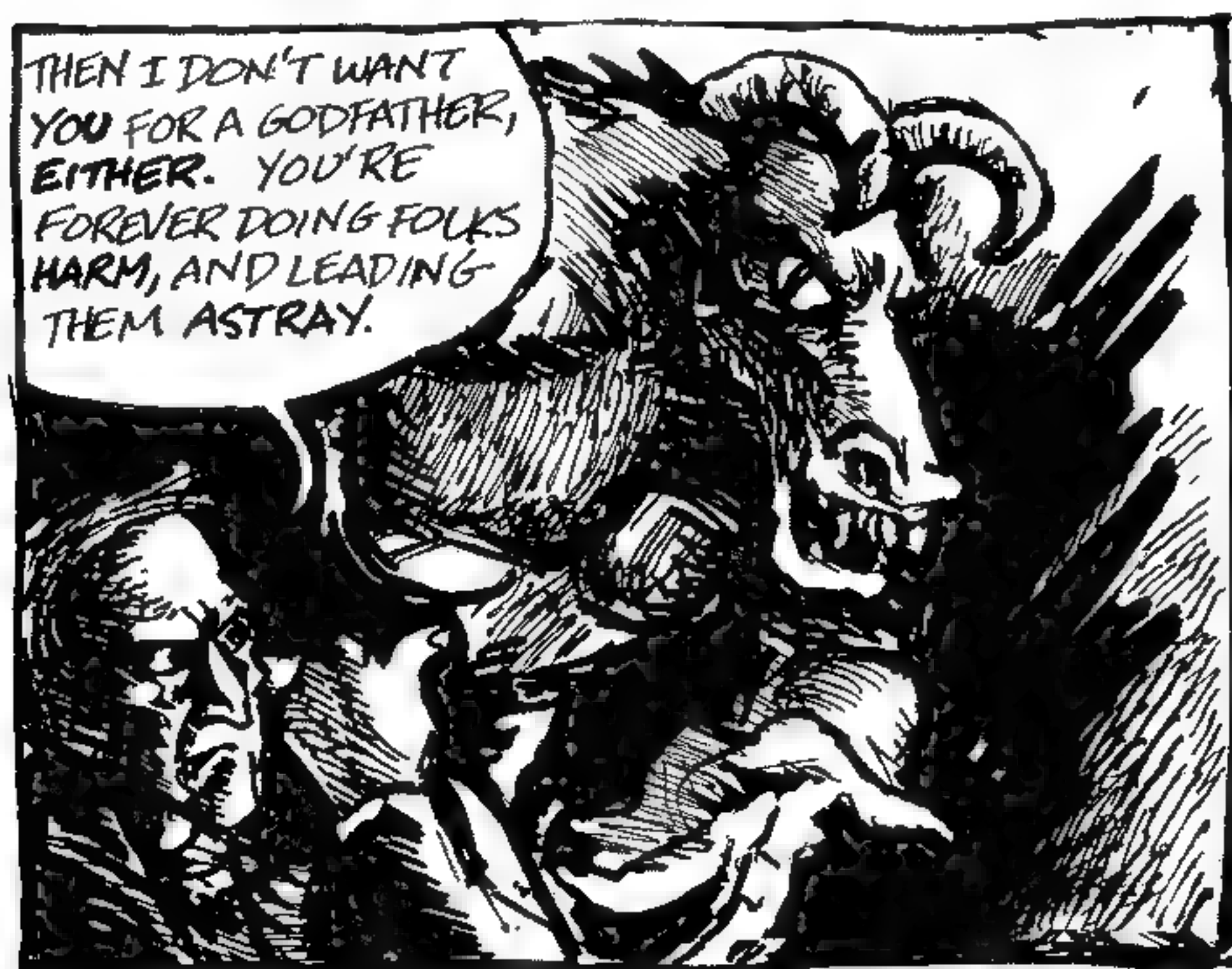
HERE ONCE WAS A POOR MAN WHO HAD TWELVE CHILDREN, AND HE HAD TO WORK DAY AND NIGHT TO FIND THEM ENOUGH TO EAT. WHEN THE THIRTEENTH CHILD ARRIVED, HE WENT NEARLY MAD WITH DESPAIR. RUSHING TO THE HIGH ROAD, HE WENT ON HIS WAY, DETERMINED TO ASK THE FIRST PERSON HE MET TO BE THE CHILD'S GODFATHER.

A close-up illustration of the man's face, showing him with a wide-eyed, desperate expression. His hands are clasped together in front of him, and his mouth is slightly open as if he is speaking or about to speak.

AH, MY POOR FRIEND. I AM TRULY SORRY FOR YOU. I SHALL TAKE YOUR CHILD FROM THE FONT, AND I WILL CARE FOR IT, AND MAKE IT HAPPY HERE ON EARTH.

FROM THE STORY BY
THE BROTHERS GRIMM

ARTWORK + ADAPTATION BY
ERIC STANWAY





I AM DEATH...
THE LEVELLER.

YES! YOU'RE THE
ONE! YOU TAKE RICH
AND POOR ALIKE.
YOU'RE THE MAN
TO BE
GODFATHER!



I SHALL MAKE YOUR
CHILD RICH AND FAMOUS.
FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ME
FOR A FRIEND SHALL WANT
FOR NOTHING.



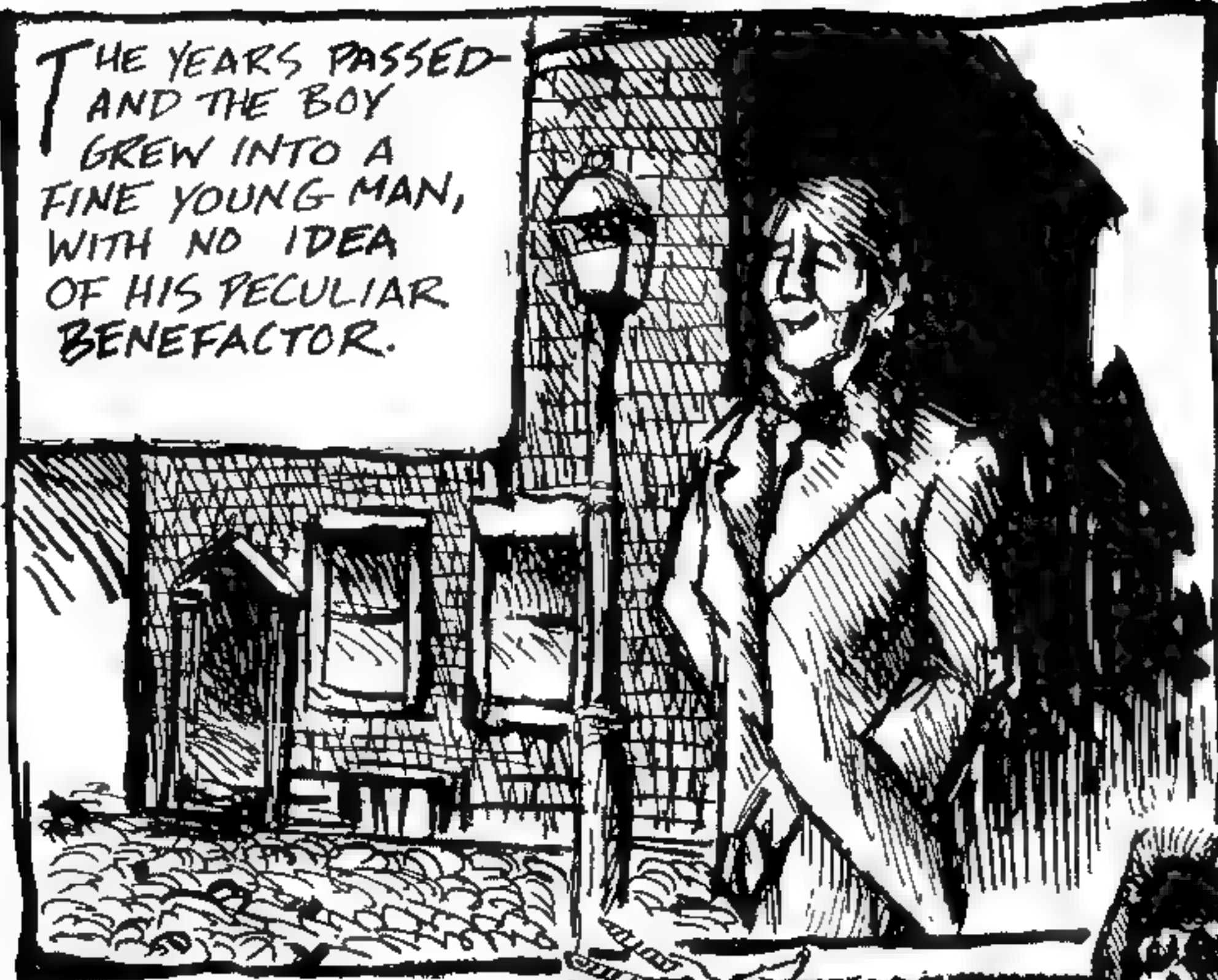
WELL, NEXT SUNDAY'S THE
DAY OF THE CHRISTENING.
BE SURE TO BE THERE
AT THE RIGHT TIME.

I
UNDERSTAND.

AND, INDEED, DEATH APPEARED AT THE
CHRISTENING, JUST AS HE HAD PROMISED,
AND STOOD GODFATHER ON HIS VERY
BEST BEHAVIOUR.



THE YEARS PASSED-
AND THE BOY
GREW INTO A
FINE YOUNG MAN,
WITH NO IDEA
OF HIS PECULIAR
BENEFACTOR.



...UNTIL, ONE NIGHT, HE
HAD A VISITOR...



GOD SAVE MY
SOUL! IT IS LORD
DEATH HIMSELF!

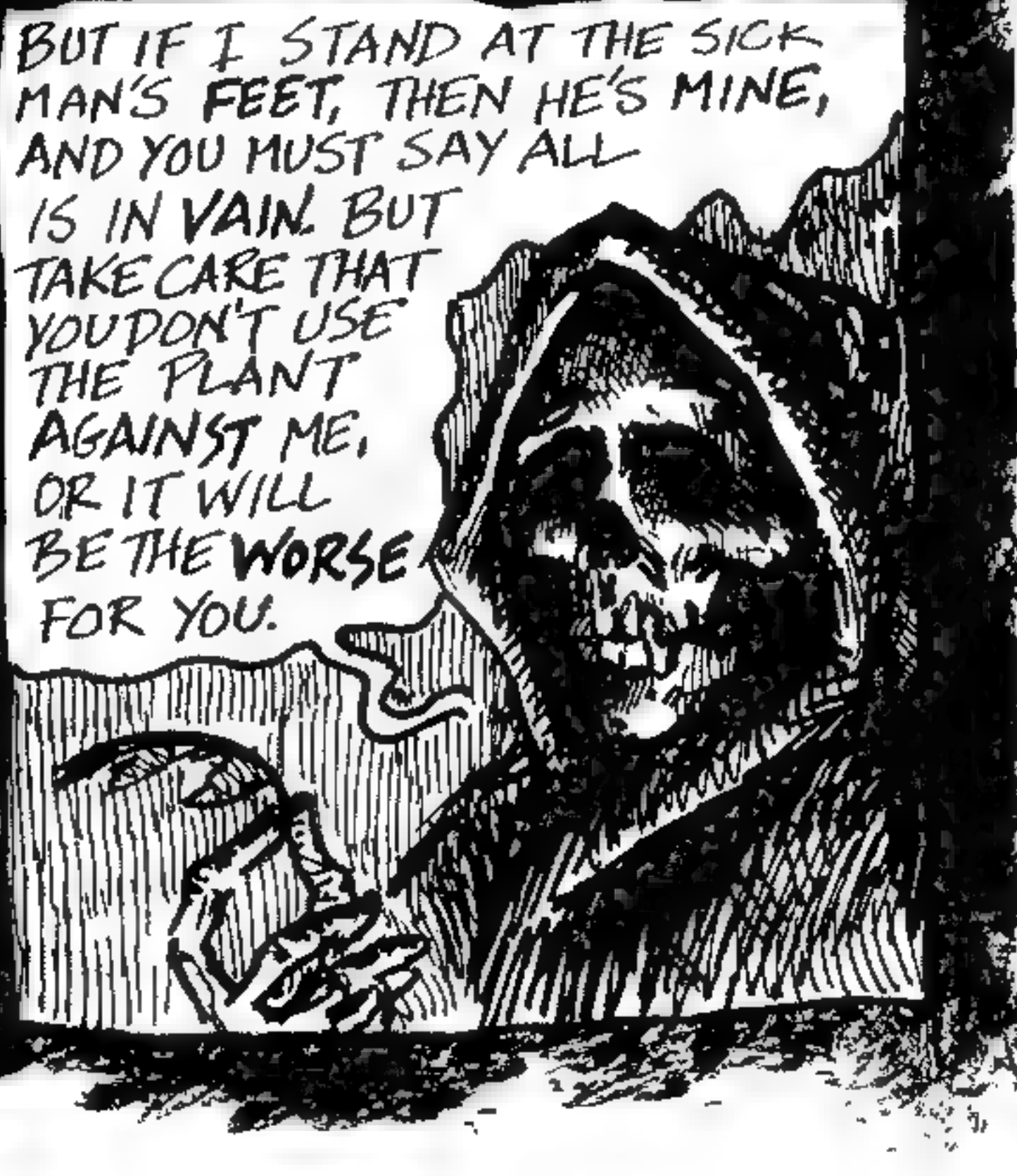


HAVE NO FEAR, BOY.
I AM YOUR GODFATHER.
I HAVE COME, NOT TO
CLAIM YOU, BUT TO
PRESENT YOU WITH
MY GIFT, AS YOU
ARE COME OF AGE.

I SHALL MAKE YOU A FAMOUS
PHYSICIAN. WHENEVER YOU ARE
CALLED TO A SICK-BED, LOOK
FOR ME. IF I STAND AT THE
PATIENT'S HEAD, YOU MAY GIVE
HIM SOME OF THIS PLANT, AND
HE WILL SOON RECOVER.



BUT IF I STAND AT THE SICK
MAN'S FEET, THEN HE'S MINE,
AND YOU MUST SAY ALL
IS IN VAIN. BUT
TAKE CARE THAT
YOU DON'T USE
THE PLANT
AGAINST ME,
OR IT WILL
BE THE WORSE
FOR YOU.



WELL, IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR THE YOUNG MAN TO BECOME THE MOST FAMOUS PHYSICIAN IN THE WORLD. EVERYBODY SAID: HE NEEDS ONLY TO LOOK AT YOU AND CAN TELL IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET BETTER OR YOU'RE GOING TO DIE.



THE BOY HASTENED TO THE KING'S BEDSIDE, ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT THE SICK MAN HAD ANOTHER VISITOR.



SEE, BOY. I STAND AT THE SICK MAN'S FEET. YOU MUST LEAVE HIM, NOW... TO DIE.



NOT YET—YOU MEN—TURN THIS BED AROUND..



—WHILE I PREPARE A RESTORATIVE.



YOU HAVE MADE A FOOL OF ME, BOY. THIS TIME I SHALL FORGET IT, FOR YOU ARE MY GOD CHILD. BUT IF YOU DARE TO DO THIS AGAIN, I SHALL TAKE YOU MYSELF!



SOON AFTER THIS, THE KING'S DAUGHTER FELL DESPERATELY ILL, AND THE KING LET IT BE KNOWN THAT WHOEVER SHOULD CURE HER WOULD GAIN HER HAND IN MARRIAGE.

AND, IF THAT WEREN'T INCENTIVE ENOUGH, THE BOY FELL IN LOVE WITH THE GIRL, THE MOMENT HE SAW HER.

BUT SHE IS BEYOND ANY REMEDY OF MINE—WHAT SHALL I DO?

ONLY ONE THING YOU CAN DO, BOY. GIVE HER TO ME.

YOU! NO—YOU CAN'T HAVE HER!

REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU, BOY—I DON'T GIVE SECOND WARNINGS.

I DON'T CARE! YOU MEN—TURN THIS BED AROUND.

NOT ONE OF YOUR BETTER IDEAS, BOY...



NO! WAIT! I
CAN EXPLAIN...

THE TIME FOR
EXPLANATION IS LONG
PAST, BOY. YOU HAVE
DEFIED ME TWICE—
IT'S ALL UP FOR
YOU, NOW.

WHAT IS
THIS PLACE?

THIS IS MY ABODE. THESE ARE
THE CANDLES OF MEN'S LIVES.
THE SMALL ONES BELONG TO
THE AGED, THE LARGER TO
CHILDREN. BUT EVEN BOYS
MAY HAVE ONLY A LITTLE FLAME.

YOURS,
FOR
INSTANCE.

IT'S ALMOST OUT!
QUICKLY! YOU MUST
RE-LIGHT IT!

IMPOSSIBLE BUT
THERE IS SOMETHING
ELSE I CAN DO...

I CAN TAKE THIS LIGHT, AND
PUT IT ATOP ANOTHER,
SO THAT YOU MAY LIVE
FOR SOME TIME LONGER—

OOPS.



NO!
YOU DROPPED IT!



TSK TSK...



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